BOROUGH OF RUTHIN

ANNUAL
HEALTH REPORT
1958

Medical Officer of Health

M. JONES ROBERTS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
The Clinic, Middle Lane, Denbigh.
Tel. No. Denbigh 289.

Public Health Inspector

T. G. EVANS
(Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Examination of Joint Board Certificate of Sanitary Knowledge, School of Hygiene, University of Liverpool).
Town Hall, Ruthin. Tel. No. Ruthin 155.

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of the
Medical Officer of Health

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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF RUTHIN

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year 1958.

The Public Health Inspector and I wish to thank you, Mr. Mayor, the Chairmen and Members of the Council and the various Committees for all the assistance we have received during the year, and we would thank the other Officials and members of the staff for their assistance at all times.

Yours faithfully,

M. JONES ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Mayor of the Borough and the Chairmen of the various Committees during the year were as follows:—

Mayor of the Borough—Councillor W. LEWIS.

Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee—

Councillor T. E. LEWIS.

Chairman of the Housing Committee—

Councillor BITHELL WILLIAMS.

Chairman of the Water Committee—Councillor S. T. HUGHES,

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH

Area of the Borough	2,016 (acres)
Registrar General's estimated population (mid-1958)	3,670
Number of inhabited houses	1,209
Rateable Value (1/4/58)	£45,443
Sum represented by a penny rate	£175/9/2

The estimated population of the Borough was 3,670, the same as in 1957.

The number of inhabited houses was 1,209 in 1958 compared with 1,197 in 1957, an increase of 12.

DEATHS

Comparability Factor 0.86

	England and Wales 1958	1957	1958
Crude death rate (per 1,000 population)	11.7	14.44	12.80
Corrected death rate (per 1,000 population)	—	12.56	11.00
Still-birth rate (per 1,000 population)	—	0.27	Nil
Still-birth rate (per 1,000 live and still births)	21.6	21.74	Nil
Maternal Mortality rate	0.86	Nil	Nil
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	22.5	Nil	Nil
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) Legitimate	—	—	Nil
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) Illegitimate	—	—	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) First 4 weeks	16.2	—	Nil

The three last rates are given for the first time and, therefore, there are no rates for 1957 for comparison.

The following table shows the number of deaths which occurred during the year. The number of deaths which occurred in 1957 are shown in the first column for comparison.

	1957	1958		
	Total	Total	Males	Females
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis — Respiratory	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis — Other	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—

Malignant Diseases:—				
Stomach	1	1	1	—
Lungs, Bronchus	4	2	2	—
Breast	1	1	—	1
Uterus	—	—	—	—
Other	5	3	3	—
Total Cancer deaths	11	7	6	1
Leukaemia	—	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	10	10	2	8
Coronary diseases	10	5	4	1
Hypertension with heart diseases	1	—	—	—
Other heart diseases	5	8	6	2
Other circulatory diseases	5	4	2	2
Influenza	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	3	1	2
Bronchitis	1	4	4	—
Other respiratory diseases	2	1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach, etc.	2	—	—	—
Castritis, diarrhoea, etc.	—	1	—	1
Nephritis, nephrosis, etc.	1	—	—	—
Prostatic hyperplasis	1	—	—	—
Maternal causes	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	2	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—	—
All other accidents	1	1	—	1
Suicide	—	1	1	—
Homicide	—	—	—	—
All causes	53	47	27	20

The deaths occurred in the following age groups:—

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Under 1 year	—	—	—
1—10 years	—	—	—
10—20 years	—	—	—
20—30 years	—	—	—
30—40 years	—	—	—
40—50 years	—	—	—
50—60 years	4	2	2
60—70 years	9	6	3
70—80 years	18	12	6
80—90 years	15	7	8
90 years and over	1	—	1
Total	47	27	20

There were 47 deaths during the year compared with 53 the previ[illegible] year, giving a death rate of 11.00 compared with 12.56 in 1957. Of these deaths, 43 occurred in persons aged 60 years and over.

There were no deaths due to tuberculosis compared with 1 the previous year.

There were no deaths due to influenza compared with 1 in 1957, but 3 deaths were due to pneumonia compared with Nil the previous year.

There were no deaths from any other infectious diseases.

Deaths from cancer totalled 7 compared with 11 the previous year. Of these, 2 were due to cancer of the lung.

Deaths from vascular lesions, lesions of the heart and lesions of the circulatory system totalled 27 compared with 31 the previous year. Of these, 5 were due to coronary disease compared with 10 in 1957.

There was 1 suicidal death compared with Nil in 1957.

One death was due to other accidents.

One death occurred in a person aged 89 years who died of shock due to a fracture of the neck of the femur whilst attempting to walk in a hospital ward.

Accidents in the Home

During November, a National "Guard that Fire Campaign" was held and in Denbighshire, prevention of accidents in the home generally were brought into the Campaign. As it was impossilbe to have an exhibition in each area, it was decided to hold one at Denbigh to cover the Western No. 2 Area. Pamphlets were distributed through the Women's Institutes, schools, clinics, etc., and posters were displayed. Talks on the subject were given at various centres. A competition was held for the children who were asked to spot defects in a "Careless Cottage." The Press very kindly published this picture and thanks are due to them, to the Ironmongers in the district who so kindly gave the prizes and to the various business premises for displaying posters, fire-guards, etc.

It is hoped that the general public will realise that accidents in the home can be prevented.

Still-Births

The Still Birth Rate was Nil compared with 21.74 the previous year and 21.6 for England and Wales. There were no still births during the year compared with 3 in 1957.

Infant Deaths

The Infant Death Rate was Nil, the same as in 1957, and compared with 22.5 for England and Wales. There were no deaths of infants under the age of 1 year in the Borough during 1958, the same as in 1957.

Maternal Mortality Rate

There were no maternal deaths during 1958 giving a Maternal Mortality Rate of Nil the same as in the previous year compared with 0.86 for England and Wales.

Births

Comparability Factor 1.06

Actual number of births registered ... 79 (44 Males and 35 Females).

Number of births relating to residents 39 (20 Males and 19 Females).

The discrepancy in the figures is due to the fact that a few mothers from the area go to hospitals outside the area for the birth of their babies, others from the Ruthin district come to Ruthin Hospital.

These births were classified as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	19	19	38
Illegitimate	1	—	1

	England and Wales. 1958	1957	1958
Crude birth rate (per 1,000 population) ...	16.4	12.23	10.63
Corrected birth rate (per 1,000 population)	—	12.96	11.26
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	—	—	2.56

Infectious Diseases

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1958 arranged in the various age groups. The number of cases notified during 1957 is given in the first column for comparison.

Notifiable Disease	1957 Total.	1958 Total.	AT AGES Under 1 year.	1—5 years.	6—15 years.	16—25 years.	26—45 years.	46—65 years.	65 years and over.	Ages unknown.
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—
Erysipelas	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	34	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	42	12	—	—	1	1	2	2	5	1

The total number of cases (including tuberculosis) notified during the year was 12 compared with 42 cases notified during the previous year. The decrease in the number of cases notified was due to the fact that only two cases of measles were notified during the year compared with 34 cases in 1957.

No cases of whooping cough were notified compared with three cases the previous year.

Five cases of pneumonia were notified compared with one case in 1957. These cases occurred in persons aged 45 years and over.

The one case of erysipelas occurred in a person aged 76 years.

One case of enteritis was notified, but no organisms were found on bacteriological examination and the case was not one of food poisoning.

The case of puerperal pyrexia occurred in hospital.

Two cases of mumps were notified by the Head Teacher of a school in the Borough.

Four cases of tuberculosis (2 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary) were notified compared with 4 cases in 1957.

Two other cases of tuberculosis were added to the register, the patients having come to reside in the Borough.

Six cases of tuberculosis (4 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary) were removed from the register during the period, one having left the area, 4 recovered and one died, but tuberculosis was not the primary cause of death.

Three cases of tuberculosis were admitted to hospital during the year and two cases were discharged.

The following table shows the number of cases of tuberculosis on the register at the beginning and at the end of 1958.

	Pulmonary.		non-Pulmonary.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number on register on 1st January 1958	13	15	2	—	30
Number on register on 31st December 1958	14	14	2	—	30

The following table indicates the number of inspections carried out by the Public Health Inspector regarding infectious diseases.

No. of visits re infectious diseases	12
No of visits re tuberculosis	5
No. of rooms fumigated and disinfected	6
No. of cases where bedding was removed and stored.....	0
No. of cases where disinfectant was used	5

PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough

Injections are still given in the combined form to immunise children against these two diseases. The injections are given (three at monthly intervals) from the age of 3 months. Booster injections against diphtheria are given when a child commences school and again when he is aged about 10 years.

It is still most important that all children should be immunised against diphtheria if this dreaded disease is not to return. In Wales in 1948, there were 190 cases of diphtheria notified with 7 deaths and in 1957, there were only 27 cases notified with only 1 death.

There are also fewer notifications of whooping cough and this disease appears to be much more mild.

The number of children immunised against these diseases during the year was as follows:—

Number immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough combined:—

Under 5 years	34
Over 5 years	7

Number immunised against diphtheria only:—

0—5 years	Nil
Booster injections	6

These figures were given by the County Medical Officer.

Smallpox

Babies are vaccinated against smallpox from the age of 2 months. Vaccination in the older age groups is usually because the person concerned is going abroad.

The number of vaccinations carried out during the year was as follows:—

Number given primary vaccinations	57
Re-vaccinations	12

These figures were given by the County Medical Officer.

Poliomyelitis

Everyone aged from 6 months to 25 years of age, expectant mothers, ambulance staff, nurses, etc. can now be vaccinated against poliomyelitis. From the beginning of 1959, the special group, i.e. persons not attending school, will be able to attend at special evening sessions arranged at various centres according to the demand. The times of these clinics will be advertised in the Press and it is up to the individual person to attend. It is hoped that persons in this age group will take advantage of this as the Medical Officers and Health Visitors are giving up their free time to stay on at the clinics. Consent cards may be obtained from the clinics, general practitioners, the County Medical Officer or the District Medical Officer. All persons under 21 years of age will need their parent's consent in writing before the injections can be given.

The number of children vaccinated against poliomyelitis during the year was as follows:—

Number received 1st injection	518
Number received 2nd injection	484
Number received 3rd injection	Nil

These figures were given by the County Medical Officer.

Tuberculosis

No B.C.G. vaccinations were carried out in schools during the year.

A Semi-Static Unit of the Mass Radiography Service visited the Borough once every three weeks during the year. This was stationed at the Ambulance Hall, Ruthin, on Fridays from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. It has not been possible to arrange an evening session, but consideration is being given to changing the day of the visit so that it may be possible to have this.

The attendances at the Unit during the year could have been much better, as can be seen from the following attendance figures. There is no significant risk of radiation hazards involved through having the chest X-rayed by an Unit of this Service, and the use of the Service does enable certain diseases to be diagnosed in their early stages, and early treatment is naturally followed by an early cure.

Number of visits made by the Unit during 1958	14
Number of attendances	343

ANALYSIS SHOWING TYPE OF EXAMINEE

General Population (Voluntary)	230
Referred by General Practitioners	29
National Service Recruits	18
Civil Servants and L.G.O's	49
Schoolchildren	6
Teaching Staff	1
Students	5
Contacts	—
Hospital Staff	5
Factory Groups	—
Totals	343

ABNORMALITIES FOUND

Number referred for further investigations	14
Other pulmonary abnormalities (not requiring further observation)	6
Totals	20

Care of the Aged

Several visits were paid to aged persons requiring care and attention. Often these old people were brought to our notice, and in many instances the conditions were bad due to the fact that those concerned were physically or mentally handicapped and were unable to look after themselves. With the assistance of the Health Visitors and the District Nurses a great deal has been done to help these people. Often, after the house had been cleaned by a home help, the home was more comfortable and it was possible for the aged to remain in their own home.

In some instances, action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, would have had to be taken, but the person concerned went to a Home voluntarily.

Sewers and Sewage

Conditions on the sewage farm during the year were unaltered, and there is an urgent need for a new Disposal Works. Sections of sewers from Park Road Bridge to the sewage farm were scraped and cleaned during the year.

Water Supply

Supplies from Plas y Nant and the borehole have been very satisfactory during the year. The stream below Plas y Nant is still diverted and until there is an improvement in the method of sedimentation and filtration supplies cannot be drawn from this source.

The Council is considering improvements to both sedimentation and filtration plants, but until the county policy of a new Water Board is more clearly defined it is not possible to finalise their plans.

Complaints as to the hardness of the borehole supply have been received, and the Council has under consideration the installation of a Water Softening Plant.

Twelve samples were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. All samples were satisfactory (Ministry of Health Classification—Class I).

Housing

No Council Houses were built during the year, but contracts were let for the erection of 12 flats for aged persons on the site at Haulfryn, and Rhos Street.

It is hoped that when erected there will be a movement of elderly couples now occupying 2 or 3 bedroom Council Houses to the new flats.

The number of Council Houses is as follows:—

Haulfryn Estate	82
Parc-y-Dre	80
Maes-y-Dre	24
Canol-y-Dre	36
Porth-y-Dre	62
Rhos Street	10
Hostel Flats	8
Total	302

The number of complaints received was 540.

Food

The majority of food premises were reasonably clean when inspected.

The attention of three owners was called to minor items and these were rectified during the year.

The number of visits paid to food premises in the Borough during the year was as follows:—

	No. of premises.	No. of visits.
Shops	32	47
Bakehouses	2	6
Public houses and hotels	11	21
Cafes	5	17
School canteens	4	9
Other canteens	0	0
Bed and breakfast accommodation	6	0
Vans and stalls	2	5
Dairies	2	4
Slaughterhouses	1	78
Butcher's Shops	5	12
Sausage factories	0	0

The undermentioned articles were seized during the year as being unfit for human consumption:—

Wet Fish, 120 lbs.

Tinned Ham, 38 lbs.

Various Tinned Fruit, 160.

Tinned Milk, 40.

The following report was received from Mr. T. H. Evans, Chief Inspector for the County of Denbigh under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Article	No. Taken	Genuine	Not Genuine, or Sub-standards
MILK	10	10	—
Butter	1	1	—
Ice Cream	1	1	—
Tea	1	1	—
Totals	13	13	—

All the samples were certified by the Public Analyst to be genuine and free from all prohibited preservatives and colouring matter.

Inspection of Meat

The slaughterhouse situated in Market Street has been well maintained during the year.

	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Calves.
Number killed	467	6684	821	7
Number inspected	460	4570	821	7
All diseases except Tuberculosis—				
Whole carcases condemned	1	1	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	31	1320	25	0
%	.07	.25	.03	0
Tuberculosis only	0	0	0	0

Burial Ground

The number of burials during the year was 6.

Rodent Control

Treatment of sewers was carried out twice during the year. No major infestation occurred during the year.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

Premises. (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number on Register. (3)	Number of Inspections. (4)	Number of Written Notices. (5)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted. (6)	M/c. line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority ...	1	28	23	Nil	Nil	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	9	16	Nil	Nil	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	4	4	Nil	Nil	3
TOTAL		41	43	Nil	Nil	

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Cases Found. (3)	Cases Remedied. (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector. (5)	Referred To H.M. Inspector. (6)	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c. line No. (8)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	4	1	1				4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5						5
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7						7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8						8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):—							
(a) Insufficient	9						9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	2	2				10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11						11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12						12
TOTAL		3	3				

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Service

The Public Health Laboratory is at Conway, and samples of water, milk and ice-cream are sent there for bacteriological examination. Other types of bacteriological examinations are also carried out there to aid in the diagnosis of illness, e.g. food poisoning, scarlet fever, meningitis, etc.

Ambulance Service

This service is controlled by the County Medical Officer of Health at Wrexham, but Denbigh, Llanrwst and Llangernyw ambulances are under the jurisdiction of the Ambulance Sub-Station at Colwyn Bay.

There are five ambulance stations in the Western No. 2 Health Area situated at Denbigh, Ruthin, Llanrwst, Llangernyw and Cerrig-y-Druidion, with one ambulance at each station. Three stations, i.e. Ruthin, Llanrwst and Cerrig-y-Druidion are manned by voluntary personnel, but at Denbigh and Llangernyw, full time drivers are employed. To supplement the ambulances, use is made of voluntary drivers of the W.V.S. Hospital Car Service and local taxi proprietors for the conveyance of sitting cases. Ambulances for the conveyance of infectious cases are sent from the hospitals concerned at Wrexham and Colwyn Bay.

The following is given for the information of the Council and the numbers refer to cases conveyed by the various ambulances and the mileage covered during the year.

Name of Ambulance Station	Denbigh	Ruthin	Llanrwst	Llangernyw	Cerrig	Totals
Number of cases	1,964	471	93	1,642	71	4,241
Total Mileage	28,639	10,087	3,660	24,926	3,218	70,530

SITTING CASE CARS

Taxis.			W.V.S.		
No. of Journeys.	No. of Cases.	Total Mileage.	No. of Journeys.	No. of Cases.	Total Mileage.
1,416	3,955	66,795	300	1,009	18,703

The W.V.S. Hospital Car Service was discontinued at the end of September.

These figures were given by the County Medical Officer.

Mental Health Service

This service is under the supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health at Wrexham.

Venereal Diseases Clinics

These clinics are held at hospitals in Llandudno, Wrexham, Chester, Bangor and St. Asaph.

Tuberculosis Clinics

Patients attend either at the Chest Clinic held at the Denbigh Infirmary every Wednesday morning, at the Chest Clinic held at Grosvenor Road, Wrexham, by appointment, or at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl.

Orthopaedic Clinics

A clinic is held at the Clinic, Middle Lane, Denbigh, on the first and third Wednesday mornings in each month, with Surgeons from the Gobowen Orthopaedic Hospital attending once every three months.

Clinics are held weekly at hospitals in Rhyl and Wrexham.

Ante-Natal Clinics

There is no Ante-Natal Clinic held at Ruthin, but cases may be referred by the patient's own doctor to the Local Authority's Consultant Clinic which is held at the Clinic, Middle Lane, Denbigh, on alternate Friday mornings and at Wrexham on Wednesdays.

The attendances at the Denbigh Ante-Natal Clinics during the year were as follows (patients from the Borough who attended are included in these figures as well as patients from Denbigh Borough and Aled and Ruthin Rural Districts):—

	Consultant Clinic.	Routine Clinic.
1st Visits	69	8
re-Visits	133	28
Post Natal	6	—
Gynae	31	—
Total	239	36

These figures were given by the County Medical Officer.

The Consultant Clinic was discontinued from September when Mr. R. Owen Jones retired. Due to poor attendances, the Routine Clinic was discontinued after November.

Patients who are booked at St. Asaph Hospital for their confinement attend the clinic which is held at the hospital on Monday afternoons.

Infant Welfare Clinics

This clinic is held at the Baptist Chapel Schoolroom every Tuesday afternoon. The clinic is well attended as can be seen from the undermentioned attendance figures for the year:—

Ist Visits	164	
re-Visits	946	
Total Visits		1110

These figures, which were given by the County Medical Officer, include babies from the rural district as well as from the Borough.

The clinic premises are very unsuitable, and a building for this purpose in Ruthin is long overdue.

Welfare Foods are available at the Clinic during the clinic sessions and at 40 Well Street, Ruthin, on Friday afternoons.

Dental Clinics

No Local Authority Clinic is held in the Borough, but expectant and nursing mothers and toddlers may attend at the Clinic, Middle Lane, Denbigh, by appointment. The following figures show the number of cases treated during the year in the Western No. 1 and No. 2 Areas of Denbighshire (the figures are not available for the two areas separately).

Number examined	41
Number requiring treatment	41
Number treated	41
Number completed treatment	42

Nursing Services

The following are the names and addresses of the nursing staff serving the Borough:—

Health Visitors .....

Miss C. J. Davies (Appointed 17/5/58).
Mrs. Owen (Appointed 3/2/58).
40 Well Street, Ruthin. Tel. No. Ruthin 200.

Mrs. Richards — Left area January 1958.
Miss G. Evans — Left area May 1958.

They also cover parts of Ruthin and Hiraethog Rural Districts.

Tuberculosis Health Visitors .....

Miss M. Lloyd-Edwards, The Chest Clinic, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham.

She also covers the Eastern half of the County.

District Nurses

Nurse Fowell, (appointed 16/9/58).
Telpyn Smithy, Rhewl, Ruthin. Tel. No. Ruthin 492.

Nurse Richards — resigned 30/9/58.

Domestic Help Service

The number of domestic helps employed in the Borough during the year was 11.

The number of cases where domestic help was provided was as follows:—

Maternity	1
Tuberculosis	1
Chronic Sick and Aged	17
Others	6
Total.....	25

These figures were given by the County Medical Officer.

WELLCOME INSTITUTE OF HEALTH
RECEIVED
24 DEC 1959
A.